



Simplemente Deporte presents their annual awards to the island's top athletes
Young Micky van de Vaart is named Athlete of the year

One of the most anticipated and festive end of the year events took place in the Palm Beach Ballroom of the Wyndham Resort, Spa & Casino on Thursday evening. *Simplemente Deporte* is a gala affair during which the Sports Commission acknowledges the outstanding athletes that have brought medals and honor home to Aruba in various international competitions.

This year, medal winning athletes in a number of categories by age and gender have given extraordinary performances in competitive events throughout the Caribbean, including the Dutch Kingdom games.

The youngest trophy winner in the Infantil (children) category was Randon Koolman, for his medal winning BMX racing and performance. Devah Leenheer won Women's Youth (ages 13-18) in Synchronized Swimming, and Micky van de Vaart the Male Youth Category for swimming. Ramphis Murray won Most Talented Sportsman for Tae Kwon Do, Hugo Themen, and weightlifter, was named Sport Master 2005, Alberto Klaber, a master of Tae Kwon Do was named Most Honored Athlete in the Past, Harold Heyliger was named Coach of the Year, and Mary Hsing was named Team Manager of the year for Tae Kwon Do.

Additional trophies were awarded to Janchi Tromp for his reporting of sports in the news, and Mateo Reyes for his many past accomplishment and contributions to sport in Aruba. Special honors went to Daniela Fleming for winning a gold medal for Judo in the Kingdom Games 2005, and the entire Female Softball Team for also bringing home a gold medal from the Kingdom Games.

The exciting climax to the evening was the naming of the Athlete of the Year, and sixteen year old Micky van de Vaart received resounding cheers as he was awarded a ring of honor for his outstanding contributions to athletics over the year 2005. His proud parents were on hand to share the glory and many handshakes and hugs of congratulations.

The Comision Simplemente Deporte includes Robby Burleson, Andresito Krozendijk, Kadochi Kock, Claret Lopez, Jenny Loefstop, Gerald Franca, Dochi Lee, Caryll Kelly, Hubert Kock, Jessy Beukenboom, Renny Lacle, President Jerry Gomes, and Jos Dirksz. The thirteen members of the board thank Aruba's many outstanding athletes that have competed in several events and disciplines for their devotion to sport, and for the role models they present to Aruba's youth.